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Bugliosi says Oswald acted alone

By Tom Unger
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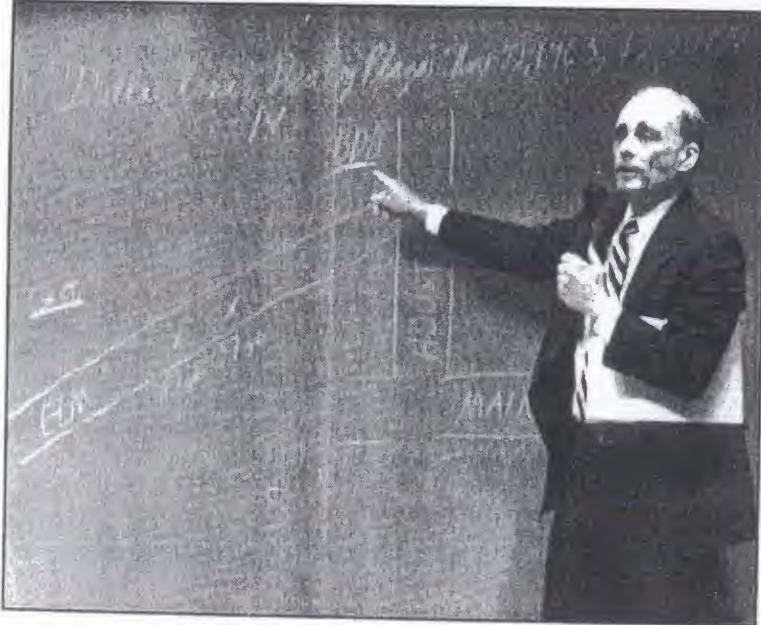
Lawyer and author Vincent Bugliosi faced what must have seemed like a hostile jury last Friday evening at the Glendale Central Library as he explained why he feels there was no conspiracy behind the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, just a 24-year-old ex-Marine named Lee Harvey Oswald.

The former Los Angeles County deputy district attorney and Glendale resident was the guest speaker in an authors' lecture series sponsored by the Friends of the Glendale Public Library.

The approximately 250 people who attended the fund-raising event in the library's auditorium listened politely for the first hour as Bugliosi gave what seemed to be a mini-closing argument on the case.

The 58-year-old lawyer, best-known for his prosecution of Charles Manson and his subsequent book, "Helter Skelter: The True Story of the Manson Murders," pointed out that Nov. 22 will be the 30th anniversary of the Kennedy assassination and that nearly 600 books have been written about what he termed "the most investigated murder in history."

Bugliosi was hired in 1986 by a British TV production company to "prosecute" Oswald in a mock trial



Tom Unger/Glendale News-Press

Attorney Vincent Bugliosi makes a point during his recent lecture at the Glendale Central Library on the John F. Kennedy assassination.

(Later broadcast in an abbreviated form on cable television).

He told the audience how, because of that production, he spent almost 100 hours a week for five months researching the events of that fateful day in Dallas. He is writing a book to support his beliefs.

Dismissing Oliver Stone's recent hit film "JFK" as a "fantasy" ("I walked out thinking I was the only one not involved in the conspiracy"), Bugliosi said the more he got into his research, the more concerned he became with books attempting to discredit the Warren Commission, which had concluded

Oswald acted alone. Few people have ever read the report explaining the Warren Commission's conclusions, he added, not even those who argue strongly against it.

Bugliosi touched upon two of the major arguments in favor of a conspiracy: the shots reported coming from the grassy knoll *in front* of the presidential motorcade and the backwards snap of Kennedy's head after the three shots were fired.

A sniper would have easily been seen on the grassy knoll since attention would be focused in that area as the motorcade approached, Bugliosi argued. So why would he shoot from there, he asked.

In addition, a sniper at the grassy knoll would be shooting at a target moving from his left to his right.

On the other hand, someone shooting from the now infamous Texas School Book Depository would have an easier angle for the shot, he said, referring the audience to a large map of the assassination scene he had drawn on a chalk board to illustrate his talk.

And since the motorcade had already passed the depository when the shooting occurred, attention would not be focused on a sniper there, he said.

The bedlam, excitement and confusion of the president's visit,

See Bugliosi / A10

mother told him, but I will say that

depressed and contemplated a vari-

Chicago, Ill. 60611-0562.

BUGLIOSI

From A9
combined with the echoing acoustics of the plaza where the shots rang out, led some witnesses to mistakenly think shots were fired from the grassy knoll, Bugliosi said.

"The grassy knoll is nonsense," he said. "It only makes sense to people who want to believe in a conspiracy."

The 8mm film of the killing taken by a bystander seems to show Kennedy's head snapping to the rear, causing many to believe he was shot from the front (from the grassy knoll), Bugliosi said.

But an in-depth examination of individual frames of the film reveals Kennedy's head initially being pushed forward as the shot came from the rear, he said.

A neuromuscular reaction caused Kennedy's head to snap backward after the initial thrust forward, Bugliosi said. A photo enlargement of the president at the point of the bullet's impact shows organic material spraying to the front, he added.

Bugliosi went on to explain how Oswald's fingerprints were found on the book cartons used to build a wall around the window from where the fatal shots were fired as well as on the murder weapon.

Oswald was the only employee of the book depository unaccounted for after the assassination; he lied about bringing a large paper bag with him to work that day (which was apparently used to carry the murder weapon), and two witnesses identified him as the man who shot a police officer later that same day, Bugliosi pointed out.

"The murder (of the officer) bore the signature of a desperate man in flight," he contended.

Bugliosi added that if there had been a conspiracy and others were involved in the killing, it would have been impossible to keep it secret for this long. There has not been any solid evidence to prove the conspiracy theory, he added.

Finishing his formal presentation in about an hour, Bugliosi fielded questions and entered into debate with a sometimes rowdy audience, many members of which were openly skeptical of his conclusions.

Referring often to his notes, Bugliosi rebutted many of the pro-conspiracy statements and claims from the audience with testimony and evidence from Warren Commission hearings, quoting specific volume and page numbers from the commission's massive report.

Some audience members came up with their own volume and page numbers to support their arguments.

"I can tell you people have done

your homework," Bugliosi said admiringly.

The discussion grew heated at times as audience members interrupted Bugliosi and each other, prompting the famous lawyer to play the role of a judge to restore order.

"I think we should take one question at a time," he said. "It's getting a little unruly."

After an hour of questions and answers, Bugliosi called an end to the presentation and thanked the audience for participating.

"I learned. I hope you learned something also," he concluded.

Thirty students will be admitted

Wind ensemble slates concert

The Occidental-Caltech Wind Ensemble will present a program of classical and modern works, including the Los Angeles premiere of Ralph Dunlap's "Symphony in Minor Keys" at 8 p.m. today in Occidental College's Thorne Hall.

The concert by the 45-member group is free to the public.

For more information, call (213) 259-2785.